

PM's name used

Four who forged Prime Minister's signature and made fake rubber stamps arrested

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By Andrew Sagayam

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: Police have detained four people who falsified documents and forged the signature of the Prime Minister to bring in foreign workers into the country.

The four are said to have duped several employers into parting with several hundred thousand ringgit for providing "legal foreign workers".

Kuala Lumpur commercial crime chief Supt Adnan Shahbudin told *The Sun* that the four, aged between 42 and 51, were arrested in operations carried out last Wednesday and Thursday. Two were picked up in Wangsa Maju and one each in Setapak and Jalan Ipoh.

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Police recovered a stack of documents, some of which are believed to carry the forged signature of the Prime Minister.

The documents were supposed to lend authenticity to their claims that they had been appointed by the government to bring in foreign workers.

Also recovered were letter-heads purportedly of the Prime Minister's Department, rubber stamps and seals.

Adnan said the four men told employers who needed workers that the documents in their possession had been introduced under a new law by means of which the government had appointed them to provide foreign labour.

The group is said to have brought in an average of 500 workers per month over the past two years.

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They operated as authorised employment agents and some factories may have employed foreign workers based on these documents.

These factories now face the risk of prosecution for employing workers without proper authorisation.

The case came to light after the group failed to turn up at a ceremony to sign a "memorandum of understanding" to provide foreign workers to a Kuala Lumpur-based company.

The 57-year-old director of the company, from Taiping, had paid about RM300,000 for the supply of foreign workers periodically.

"When members of the group did not show up, the director called the Prime Minister's Department and was told that no such agency or individuals had been appointed or that such a scheme was in place," **Adnan** said.

He then lodged a report at the Kuala Lumpur police headquarters. Investigations are continuing to establish the extent of the group's operations and to identify other employers who had used its "services".